

\$2

JANUARY 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 1

YOUR DONATION BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

Tales from the curb: dispensary
dumpster diving. **Page 11**



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GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

DO YOU SEE US?

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'Behind the Walls' by
Jaume Plensa erected
outside The University of
Michigan Museum of Art.

ND S T FRANKEL AND THE FRANKEL FAMILY WING

Why the special edition is important for vendors

ELIZABETH "LIT" KURTZ
Groundcover vendor No. 154

The special edition is unique to Groundcover News. Not only does it represent perhaps the only product of its type to be sold across the international street paper association, but, more importantly, a unique product that was introduced by a vendor.

While street vendors sell the product, it is rare that we are involved in the decision making process of what will be sold. Yet, the idea of the special edition was conceived by a street vendor, Joe Woods, who envisioned selling a higher priced paper. That led to the first special edition, devised as a chance to showcase the best articles and give vendors the opportunity to make much-needed cash moving into the holidays and winter.

Woods is a seasoned salesman who cut his teeth on door-to-door sales directly after high school. His acumen for sales and marketing impressed our director, Susan Beckett and she gave his idea a try. Since that time the special edition has been welcomed by vendors and customers alike. Past issues have included themes about winning articles from the International Network of Street Papers all the way to a focus on vendor entrepreneurship.

The Groundcover News Board made a recent change in the way vendors purchase the wholesale special ten-dollar edition that they then sell to customers. The change is not only a daunting setback, but one that is especially harmful and disappointing during a pandemic that has already threatened the livelihood of vendors.

In years prior to the pandemic, vendors could purchase the special edition of the Groundcover News for two dollars leaving an eight dollar profit margin. The new policy requires vendors to purchase four regular editions for every special edition, impacting the bottom line of vendors who depend on the sales of the special edition exclusively.

The “ten-dollar” paper represents much more than being ten dollars. It is a special edition that is larger than the monthly issues. Each special edition, from conception to its being sold on the street, is an example of time and dedication to a lengthy process.

Especially the street effort. While many vendors attempt to sell it from time to time, there is a small percentage of vendors who have built their business on the special edition.

It is no small chance that certain vendors offer the special edition while others do not. The casual observer might not give much thought to the vendor who sells them. What most will never see is the dedication, discipline and training these vendors have undergone to offer it for sale.

In an environment where self respect and confidence are hard to come by, the majority of vendors will never sell it, and certainly not exclusively. The special edition once seemed like a daunting impossibility to me as well. I looked longingly at Joe Woods, the only vendor who sold it exclusively. He was respected as “The ten dollar man,” and I could only dream of making such sales.

Only when I was in one of my most dire crisis situations did I dare venture to sell it. The paper saved me from being left outdoors on a midseason fall night, walking the streets as a lone woman carrying bags not knowing where to settle in for sleep, not having enough to cover a hotel room.

The dedicated vendor whose vision brought the special edition into existence was also the one who tutored me in helping develop the requisite marketing skills needed to sell it. As odd as it seems now, it had never occurred to me to make potential customers aware of the many articles that I contributed to the paper.

Despite setbacks, I stuck with the training and Joe christened me as his protege. He virtually became my sales mentor. Discouragement was replaced with more instruction. Everything meant

something. I learned the law of averages and how to display the special edition paper for maximum effect. I learned to build confidence and how not to internalize rudeness or the invariable hostility. I learned about setting goals and quotas.

At one point Joe Woods even gifted me a copy of Og Mandino's book *The World's Greatest Salesman* which he referred to as the “salesperson's bible”. I read its scrolls timelessly every day and began to experience the confidence that has perhaps buoyed the sales of countless salespeople around the globe.

Not only do we sell the ten-dollar paper, but we pride ourselves on being able to elevate our mindset and self worth in an environment that seeks to destroy it. Through it we are able to synthesize our accomplishments while creating a mechanism to transition and enjoy the benefits of mainstream living. I believe more than ever in what the special edition offers to both the vendors and its customers.

So while the new policy of buying four regular papers for every special edition may seem like it will not make much of a difference, it does to the few select vendors who have acquired the skills to sell it exclusively. The purchase of four additional regular papers for each special that I usually add to my inventory not only affects my bottom line but creates confusion for customers who recognize me for the special edition plus monthly combination that I offer.

Other vendors have had to make their own adjustments. Since the special edition saved me and changed the direction of my life, I will always be an exclusive seller of it. But now when I stock up, I will need to pay an additional \$2 for extra monthly editions which eats away at my profit margin.

It becomes awkward for me to sell the three regular papers when I otherwise sell the special edition combo exclusively. More than likely, the other three additional papers will be ones I give away to those who might not be able to afford to

buy either.

Also the bookkeeping involved with the new four-for-one policy increases the volunteers' work load. It couldn't come at a worse time as the pandemic has already depleted our livelihoods.

The time spent on this new policy would be better spent helping vendors acquire the many needs that are lacking such as dedicated bags in which to carry our papers or appropriate uniforms for the seasonal changes in which we work.

While Groundcover News has helped me bear the enormity of living without adequate housing and offered valuable insight into the homeless crisis, this recent policy decision does not promote the growth of the vendor and short-changes everyone in the long run.



Lit Kurtz and her mentor Joe Woods selling their signature product, the special edition.

Response from Groundcover Board member Hailu Shitaye: *We are proud of Lit for her accomplishments in selling the special edition of Groundcover News. We are also proud that we continue to provide her with a venue to express herself freely. We will continue to evaluate the impact of the new policy on vendors and our mission to give voice, raise awareness and create economic opportunity. We will provide more detailed explanation on the rationale for the policy change in the February issue.*

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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MEET YOUR VENDOR



Michael Ware, vendor No. 163

In one sentence, who are you?
I am kind and gentle.

Where do you usually sell GCN? I sell in downtown Ann Arbor.

When and why did you start selling GCN? I started in 2012 because I needed income.

If you could do anything for a day, what would it be? I would sell papers.

What is your superpower. My superpower is talking to people.

What was your first job? I was a newspaper boy for the Ann Arbor News.

What are your hobbies? I enjoy working out and keeping up with my physical fitness.

What change would you like to see in Washtenaw County? I would like to see more people helping each other.

If you could eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be? Steaks.

What do you wish you knew more about? I want to know more about truck driving.

Staying engaged in a pandemic



HEATHER FEATHER
Groundcover vendor No. 54

My car broke down while I was visiting someone out of town, and I've been riding out the pandemic away from my usual home. I like to stay busy and I wanted to learn how to make jewelry. I looked online and found classes near me. I enrolled at a metal arts studio and a class on making metal jewelry. So I've been making rings!



Metal rings made by Heather Feather.

What the wintertime means to me

DENISE SHEARER
Groundcover vendor No. 490

My favorite times in the winter are all about Christmas and Jesus' birthday. I like looking at the pretty holiday decorations shining bright. I like seeing kids and adults happy and playing together with new toys, enjoying Christmastime. I like giving and getting gifts. I like how giving gifts makes people happy, and I like receiving gifts because it makes me happy too.

During the holiday, I like to watch Christmas cartoons and movies. I also look forward to eating good food on the holiday. Jesus' birthday is a good time in the wintertime for me.

In winter, I also like making snowmen. After being outside in the cold, I like warming myself up with a hot cup of tea.

I really like how the snow looks when the sun or moon reflects off of it. Even though I like watching the snow fall from my window, it doesn't make me excited for winter. It can

make me think about how people get sick in the winter.

I get nervous thinking about New Year's Day too. I'm nervous because I don't know what to expect. I stay nervous through the winter and sometimes into the spring. I stop feeling nervous when it's finally summer again! I'm less nervous in the summer because it's been half of a year and I now know what to expect. It also helps that the summer is sunny and warm. I look forward to it every year!

Marketing the Go Boober app, creating a positive reality



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

to share that we recently released the Go Boober app. If you always continue to believe in yourself and in your ideas, you will achieve them.

We have done a few Go Boober rides for friends and family, and I actually hired my first driver off the app. I have been working between 16 and 18 hours a day for four years, and I came up with this app to be able to handle all of the tasks that Boober needs to be done on a daily basis. With those responsibilities out of the way, I can focus more on teaching people how to create reality.

With Boober's new sponsorship and alliance with Treehouse 603,

we are able to cross-promote. We are using a new promotion method. I repurposed old propaganda that promoted smoking cigarettes and going to war and turned this concept into positive propaganda.

Over the next year, I will be heavily and respectfully marketing The Go Boober app with the Boober crew. The main goal of this app is to inspire and bring the community back together globally. The world is our shared home for us to collectively design to be a healthy, happy place for the future of our noble human race. Keep your mind focused forward, in a hopeful way, and you will keep moving.

GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES PACKAGE PRICING

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size (W x H)	
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	2.5 x 1.5	Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	5 x 3 or 2.5 x 6.5	Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 x 4	Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25	Additional 20% off ads with coupons
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13	
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10.25 x 13	

Long and winding road toward Dr. King's dream of ending hunger and poverty in America continues

"Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources. The deficit is in human will."

— Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1964



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

Hunger and Poverty were on the mind of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he delivered his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in Oslo, Norway, on December 11, 1964. While Dr. King "addressed problems of racial injustice, poverty, and war as global evils, rather than specific American problems," said the Director of Stanford's King Institute, we know that the Nobel Laureate was thinking about hunger at home and abroad. Dr. King said, "I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits."

A few years after Dr. King's speech in Oslo, Senator Robert Kennedy was joined by Senator Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania on a congressional trip to the Mississippi Delta. Both Senators were on a fact-finding mission and they represented the Senate's subcommittee on poverty. When they arrived, they were met by a young 27-year-old African American Attorney, Marian Wright. She was a recent graduate of Yale Law School and an employee of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. In a 2018 article by Facing South: A Voice for a Changing South, author Junior Walters said, "Kennedy followed Wright to the heart of the Delta, a region in North West Mississippi known for its entrenched racism and suffocating poverty."

"In the Delta, Kennedy and his colleagues witnessed the dehumanizing effects of decades of Jim Crow's economic, social, and political oppression. Kennedy returned to Washington, reinvigorated by his experience, understanding that the U.S. has a long way to go if it wants the Great Society envisioned by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

"The subcommittee on poverty sent doctors and psychologists back to the region who returned with reports confirming wide-spread hunger and malnutrition. The Great Society vision which the Senators referred to started right here in Ann Arbor. During his University of Michigan Commencement Speech of May 22, 1964, President Johnson talked about his vision for

America's future. He called that vision "The Great Society." He imagined a Great Society which, "rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are committed to in our time. But that is just the beginning."

President Johnson's first State of the Union Speech to Congress on January 8, 1964 was called "The War on Poverty Speech." In it, he declared an unconditional war on poverty by "proposing unprecedented federal initiatives to address poverty through education, job training, and community programs." The national poverty rate in 1964 was approximately 19% according to the Bureau of Economic Statistics.

Johnson's war on poverty speech led the United States Congress to pass the Economic Opportunity Act. This act established the Office of Economic Opportunity which would administer local applications for federal funds to fight poverty. About forty new programs were created in 1964 by the Economic Opportunity Act.

On January 31, 1964, President Johnson asked Congress to pass a permanent Food Stamp bill. This legislation helped with the hunger problems before the implementation of the OEO anti-poverty programs. Those major OEO programs included The Job Corps; The Neighborhood Youth Corps; Work-Study Grants; Urban and Rural Community Action; Adult Basic Education; Voluntary Assistance for Needy Children; Loans to Rural Families; Assistance for Migrant Agricultural Employees' Employment and Investment Incentives; Work Experience Initiatives; Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA); to mention a few.

Two years after the implementation of Johnson's war on poverty, it received harsh scrutiny from some Republican lawmakers. When Richard Nixon was elected President in 1968, he vowed, "to take the profit out of the OEO programs." However, after he was sworn in, he left the programs pretty much intact, as did Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Ronald Reagan was elected in November 1980 when the U.S. auto industry was facing stiff competition from Japan and Germany. There were a staggering number of layoffs at the auto assembly plants and the supply chains. Auto workers and their families in Metro Detroit and Midwest regions were facing a crisis. There was a crisis of confidence in Washington D.C.'s leadership. Suffering ensued from high unemployment, high inflation and high interest rates.

In January 1981, the Reagan administration embarked on a huge budget reduction. It included cutting school lunch and breakfast programs, Food Stamps (SNAP) and Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) programs. Because of the massive increase in the defense budget, the President and his advisers said that they could no longer justify the war on poverty programs and the safety net programs without significant budget reduction.

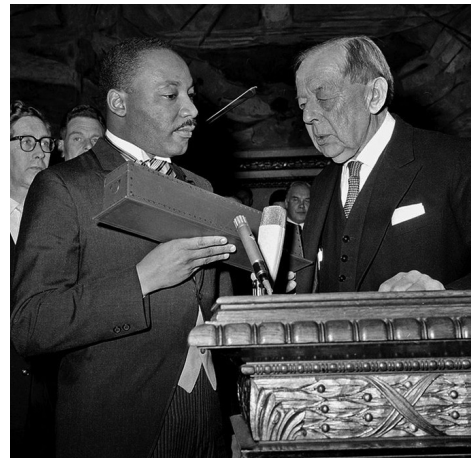
When members of the Harvard University School of Public Health Physician Task Force on Hunger in America saw a study that J. Larry Brown and Deborah Allen did on their behalf, they were disappointed with the trend that the study found. The evidence suggested that 20 million Americans (in 1988) suffered from hunger - a problem of staggering proportions. They believed that hunger in America was eliminated in the 1970s due to the available safety net and anti-poverty programs which won bipartisan support in the 1960s and 1970s.

Brown and Allen wrote, "That hunger was conquered and then re-emerged and spread rapidly suggests that its roots are political rather than technical." The Physician Task Force researchers continued, "Nonetheless, the medical and health professions have a particular responsibility in the issue because of its clear health implications. These professions also have a special role to play in efforts to fashion an appropriate public policy response."

That's why people, including politicians and journalists, say that elections have consequences!

The problems of hunger and poverty were discussed this year by CNN Business Writer Jeanne Sahadi. She observed, "For many Americans, the economic effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic have been devastating. Millions have lost jobs. Food and housing insecurity have soared. And roughly half of U.S. households reported a drop in income this year, according to Bankrate.com."

Conversely, Ms. Sahadi noted that



Dr. King receives Noble Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway in 1964. His acceptance speech galvanized the war on poverty.

COVID-19 made some American workers better off while leaving millions worse-off. One sad example she used was the story of Mr. Barnell Garrett of Washington State who lost his six-figure hotel manager's job in Seattle and ended up moving into his mother's house after suffering the sudden job and housing insecurity.

Who can forget the long lines formed outside food banks across America two days before 2020 Thanksgiving Day? There were lines in most cities and urban counties. CNN Opinion Writer Jill Filipovic published an article with the title, "At Thanksgiving, an America of Obscene Contrast." She observed that the Dow went above 30,000 on Tuesday, two days before Thanksgiving, while unemployment, widespread hunger and unchecked sickness and death were widespread.

"There is perhaps no greater example of the distortions wrought by the President's reliance on the markets as indicators for America's financial well-being than this: A record-high Dow, while record numbers of Americans are hungry," said Filipovic.

Feeding America, one of the largest food banks in the United States, estimates that by the end of 2020, "more than 50 million American households could be food insecure — that is lacking consistent access to healthy food. That is one in six Americans, and includes some 17 million children — one in every four American kids."

Dr. King's dream of ending hunger and poverty in America is still the hope of many politicians and activists, but the pandemic has put many families in need. We need leadership that is in touch with reality to pass and implement measures that will alleviate the household financial distress caused by COVID-19 and biased policies.

Hunger and inadequate nutrition put children and families at risk for poor health and generational poverty

WILL SHAKESPEARE

Developmental biologists and physicians have all emphasized that eating nutritious foods is necessary for proper emotional and physical well-being. In a 2015 Science Daily Research News article, the American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement that said, "lack of adequate food is an on-going risk to U.S. children." They also "stressed the importance of federal, state, and local nutrition programs to help combat the immediate and potentially lifelong impact of food insecurity."

The Science Daily Research News observed that "for the first time, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is recommending that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity. AAP's policy statement advised pediatricians to monitor the short-term and long-term adverse health impacts of food insecurity."

Three years later, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) journalist, Emily Pickren, reported that, "in every part of the nation, a large number of households is experiencing hardship

— the inability to afford enough food for themselves and their families — according to a new report by FRAC titled, 'How Hungry is America?' This report revealed that after several years of decline, America's food hardship rate for all households increased from 15.1% in 2016 to 15.7% in 2017."

During the 2008 Recession and now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in food insecurity among families. J. Larry Brown and Deborah Allen's research for the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America clearly showed the correlation and intersection between hunger and poor health outcomes, especially among children. The research showed that the period of gestation is when the woman and the fetus are most at risk. A pregnant woman needs extra nutrients to meet her own needs and the needs of the fetus.

Hunger is "reflected in the young child whose weight is several pounds below the low end of the normal range on a growth chart. The layperson may miss her condition, or simply see her as a skinny child, but the trained professional will recognize that her size

reflects growth failure. Her deficit indicates that the hunger she experiences, though less dramatic, is significant from a health perspective."

Social Science Research has been exhaustive in demonstrating the link between hunger and poverty. Researchers in the medical and public health fields have also found the statistical association between poverty and poor health outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed these links in addition to the health consequences of racial health disparities in both adults and children. The Physician Task Force agreed that hunger in America is a public health issue. Hunger epidemiologists are asking, what is the extent to which the direct impacts of hunger on the health of Americans are manifested today?

The data being analyzed now were collected by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys in 2017 and 2018, those being the most current surveys taken. Addressing today's kids' diet and obesity issues requires reliable year-to-year nutrition monitoring surveys for families

and children.

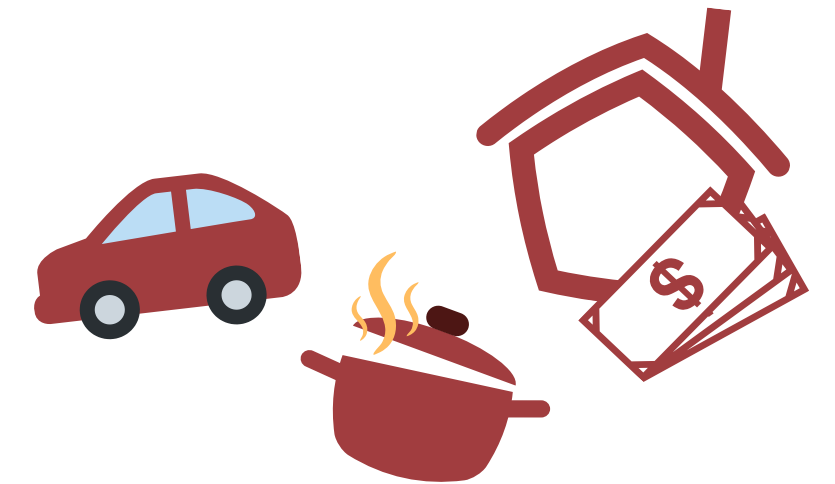
Finally, we know that birth outcomes and Infant Mortality Rates are important health indicators. Overall, the United States ranks 33 in IMR, near the bottom of Western countries, which is 13 spots lower than we ranked in 1988. The IMR for black babies is equivalent to that of many countries in Southeast Asia and Latin America. We can do better!

The researchers on Harvard's Physician Task Force on Ending Hunger in America contend that we know how to end hunger in America and that we have done it before — in the 1970s. There is no doubt that poverty causes hunger, and sometimes, hunger leads to poverty and ill-health which is a vicious cycle.

The public and private sectors can work together to create more employment opportunities, provide more relief for hungry children and adults, and raise the national minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "There's nothing new about poverty. What is new is that we have the resources to get rid of it."

Is COVID-19 making it hard to make ends meet?

If you're struggling to keep up with rent, mortgage, or utilities payments, or need help paying for food, childcare, or gas for your car the **Barrier Buster Network** is here to support you.



Visit **Washtenaw.org/2818** or contact one of these Barrier Busters agencies to help you pay your bills as soon as possible:

Housing Access for Washtenaw County

Phone: 734.961.1999

Website: housingaccess.net

SOS Community Services

Phone: 734.484.5411

Website: www.soscs.org

Washtenaw Health Plan

Phone: 734.544.3030

Website: www.washtenaw.org/WHP

Jewish Family Services

Phone: 734.769.0209

Website: jfsannarbor.org

Do you see us?

A 24.5-foot statue of a young woman's face with hands covering her eyes was erected outside of the University of Michigan Museum of Arts (UMMA) in November of 2020. It was a statue called 'Behind the Walls' by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa and was gifted to the University of Michigan for display.

"This new work is arriving at a critical time in our country and world, prompting deep reflection on deliberate ignorance and collective inaction," stated UMMA Director, Christina Olsen.

This message is much needed to address today's social injustices. The statue's accuracy and relevance are outmatched by its irony.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Michigan was approached multiple times to provide emergency shelter for the unhoused population in Washtenaw County. A collaboration between Public Health, the City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County and local citizen groups sought resources to provide an indoor space where people could safely stay throughout the shelter-in-place orders established on March 23, 2020. The groups reached out to the University of Michigan for assistance, but none was provided.

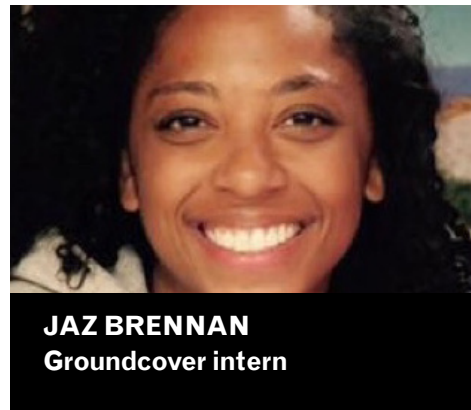
"The request was not successful and alternative options had to be found," reported Washtenaw County Commissioner Jason Morgan.

Morgan and a team have been working since April to coordinate shelter provisions for those living outside throughout the pandemic. During the lockdown, the Red Roof Inn was used and it offered direct access to showers, daytime shelter, and the ability to isolate or quarantine if need be. The plan worked but was financially unsustainable and, in October, the hotel closed.

With the number of COVID cases rising throughout the County and the days getting colder, there is an urgent need to find indoor shelter once again.

In September, Ann Arbor City Council member Elizabeth Nelson put forward a resolution that called for the U-M dormitories and other potential spaces to be opened to non-student community members as a best practice for improving health and safety outcomes. The resolution passed overwhelmingly on September 21, 2020 and a meeting was scheduled to develop this effort. However, the meeting was postponed by U-M and has yet to be rescheduled.

Even their own students have not received the response they've asked



JAZ BRENNAN
Groundcover intern

for. On December 3, the president of the Central Student Government, Amanda Kaplan, spoke at the U-M Board of Regents meeting. Kaplan put forth a resolution advocating for U-M to join the conversation, but U-M did not follow up. No one seems to be able to get a response from U-M.

For an institution to so proudly display the 'Behind the Walls' statue, and then turn a blind eye to assisting the community in which they are deeply embedded, seems odd.

For an institution to so proudly display the 'Behind the Walls' statue, and then turn a blind eye to assisting the community in which they are deeply embedded, seems odd.

In September, the University of Michigan decided to bypass the concerns and recommendations regarding in-person learning. Students from all over the world stepped onto campus and into Ann Arbor. As a result, the number of COVID-19 cases in Washtenaw County spiked, causing an end to in-person learning and a return of many students back home. While U-M is assisting the Public Health Department in providing testing and contact tracing, it seems there's potential for them to do more to correct a problem they aggravated.

By contrast, in March 2020, Suffolk University in Boston initiated a program to house the unsheltered in empty dorm rooms.

"We stand ready to help in any way," Suffolk University President Marisa Kelly said in a statement. "Boston is our home, and the University takes very seriously its responsibility to be a good citizen at a time when we are all being called upon to pitch in and help."

By the end of April, Sonoma State University in California had set up a similar response.

"We see this as an opportunity ..." said director of Sonoma County's Department of Health Services Barbie Robinson.

This was an opportunity to be a leader and the best — qualities the University of Michigan touts — but did not act on in this case.

This is not to say the University of Michigan has been fully removed from advocacy of unhoused persons. In April 2020, a senior researcher for U-M's Poverty Solutions Department, Jennifer Erb-Downward, published an article on the struggles and increased risks this population faces. Erb-Downward outlined potential solutions at the local, state and federal levels by calling for protective plans at each. She said dorms and alternative spaces such as recreation and convention centers could be temporary shelter for the unhoused.

One in every five Michigan rental households has fallen behind on their payments because of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Michigan League for Public Policy. With employment fluctuation and the continuing unknowns about the virus and its effects on the economy, officials anticipate the number of

Even with aligned missions and values, solidarity statements, and artistic calls to be the change, the University of Michigan continues to sit this game out.

unhoused individuals to increase.

Erb-Downward's article points to the already strained resources of shelters. She added that with the potential of increasing homelessness, a new practice needs to be considered and believes U-M could play a larger role.

"It's possible; complicated, but possible," Erb-Downward said.

What it requires is innovation, creativity, and inclusion. It takes leadership, empathy and commitment to the common good. It means adhering to our words and making them our work.

Even with aligned missions and values, solidarity statements, and artistic calls to be the change, the University of Michigan continues to sit this game out.

Wandering

RONALD PAGERSKI
Groundcover contributor

The homeless wander to and fro in icy wind and blowing snow they sometimes band together to brave the stormy, brutal weather. Collars up to the cold their stories go untold their fingers numb with frost this legion of the lost.

They once had warmth of home and hearth now they walk the angry earth. They sometimes ask for small donation where is the compassion in our nation? Just talk to them, don't be unkind they're human too, just in a bind.

Let's help them through the life they weather.

Kindly, let's walk this world together.



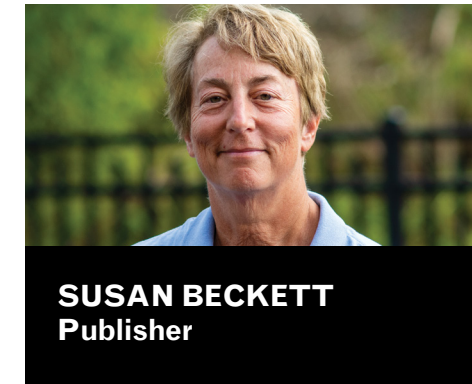
Pulling together to a renaissance of social proximity

It is rare that a new year is greeted with the enthusiasm showered on 2021. With vaccinations underway, most of us look forward to a semblance of normalcy by the fall of this year. Masks and social distancing will remain for months to come and may, in some cases, last longer or forever. There are people with immune disorders and other conditions, some temporary like pregnancy, for whom vaccines are not a good option. It is incumbent on those of us who are lucky enough to be healthy to help protect those who are vulnerable.

Our Washtenaw County community carries on its long tradition of lending a helping hand to those who need it. We at Groundcover News can attest to the generosity that crosses all strata of our society.

As December snow and cold descended, donations of gloves, coats, socks and hats were regularly dropped off at our office by people of all ages, faiths, races and economic status. Monetary support flowed in, too, allowing us to buy every Groundcover salesperson who was active in 2020 thermal underwear and a holiday gift to go with their set of cold-weather accessories. Donations came from all quarters, including students, unemployed people, retirees, business owners – shout out to Sam's and 4th Ave. Birkenstock – working people and people with disabilities.

Shoshan Mandel continued her tradition of donating high-quality mitten-gloves for all our vendors. Theresa Angelini, Sharon Gambin, Rainey Lamey, John McCauley, Jon and Etta McDonagh-Dumler, Ricardo and Liz Rodriguez, Ginny Weingate, Mary White and nearly 50 others provided substantial amounts of gear not only for Groundcover vendors, but also for Mercy House, the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County's Delonis Center, Detroit's St. Francis Center and Flint's St. Luke's N.E.W. Life where people in need receive warmth, assis-



SUSAN BECKETT
Publisher

tance and a range of services.

The County is again leasing hotel rooms for homeless folks who are quarantining or extremely vulnerable, and the Learning Resource Center is being used as an additional emergency shelter, allowing the Delonis Center to operate at 50% normal capacity.

Journey of Faith and First Baptist Church stepped up big to host the Shelter Rotation program for a month at a time and to also provide daytime shelter for their 25 guests. Many other churches are working together to provide daytime shelter and other support for vulnerable community members. Food Gatherers delivers prepared meals to all the overnight sites, and St. Andrews Episcopal Church continues to provide to-go breakfasts every morning.

Challenges for all continue while many service providers and government employees work from home but work on affordable housing continues and many new units have been completed and occupied by those who would otherwise be in shelters. The Eviction Diversion Program has helped over 500 households retain their housing.

People have channeled their desire to be close to others into finding ways to help. To all those who made contactless drop-offs, to those who risked helping out in-person, and to all those who followed safety guidelines so we will all still be here to enjoy a return to normalcy, thank you!



Despite not being able to host our annual vendor Christmas party, the outdoor Groundcover office was filled with cheer throughout the month of December. Volunteers supplied cookies, cocoa, and other treats for vendors at the office and every Groundcover salesperson who was active in 2020 received thermal underwear and a holiday gift to go with their set of cold-weather accessories. Fred Allen (top) and Paula Anderson (bottom) hold their Christmas gifts they received from Groundcover.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here

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Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemucca2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



JANUARY 2021 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has cancelled all in-person activities due to COVID-19.

Here are ways you can experience our 10 am worship service on Sundays:

Most Simple - Tune in to our live radio broadcast on WAAM 1600AM.

You can also listen to WAAM on Tune In by following this

link: <http://www.mainstreamnetwork.com/listen/player.asp?station=waam-am&listen=Listen+Live>.

(Click the shiny "play" button on the lower left of the page, ignoring any advertisements.)

· Facebook

Beginning at 9:55 Sunday, you will find our Live Video at Bethlehem's Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemucca2>

· Following the 10 am service on Sunday, the video will be posted to the Bethlehem UCC website: www.bethlehem-ucc.org. We have begun posting the service to [Bethlehem's YouTube page](https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemucca2), it will be available there at 10 am on Sundays.

Thank you all. We look forward to worshipping together.



Sunday Worship Times
10:00 am Sanctuary
streamed on Facebook



Glenn Gates, Groundcover office manager, hands Sandra S. her Christmas gift (left). Greg S. pictured right with Larzelle in background.

Thinking green throughout the pandemic

HANNAH MOMBLANCO
U-M student contributor

On the first hot summer night of my freshman year at the University of Michigan, the girls on my floor of Bursley Hall sat in a huge socially-distanced circle outside my dorm. We all got to know each other as we ate from our take-out dining hall containers. The dining hall food brought us together and fostered our conversations and soon-to-be friendships.

After a long day out in the heat and no repose in my non-air conditioned dorm room, I was longing to take a shower. Yes, a shower in a two-by-two stall with horrible water pressure. I exited the elevator on my floor to throw away my unfinished food. As I turned the corner in the hallway, I was greeted with the pungent smell of rotting meat and old bananas. The hall's garbage closet was overflowing with paper bags and take-out containers. I had to stand on my tiptoes to add mine to the pile, unsure if I was even placing it near a trash can. Each week, I added my trash to the closet like everyone else. It was almost a game; where can I place my container so as to not bring the whole garbage tower toppling down? This phenomenon started out as a game in my head. It was not until weeks later that it dawned on me that sustainability was a much larger issue, one that expanded far past the walls of Bursley Hall.

Humans are degrading the planet at an exponential rate. In comparison to all species, humans have changed the planet the most dramatically in the shortest amount of time. Some scientists now believe that the current era, the Holocene, should be called the Anthropocene or the "Age of Man." Our large impact on the Earth is partly due to our materialistic lifestyle.

We are no longer hunter-gatherers like our ancestors; we do not live off resources from our immediate surrounding environment. Instead, we live in industrialized societies where most items of necessity are mass-produced. Think about when you go to the grocery store. You buy strawberries. They are probably out of season locally and flown in from a country on the other side of the world. They only come in a plastic container. You buy green beans you must put in a plastic bag that you will throw away when you get home.

The amount of waste we create is staggering. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a conglomerate of plastic floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, occupies 1.6 million square kilometers. This is equivalent to twice the land area of Texas. As of 2020, there are about 250 pieces of plastic in the patch for each person in the world, and this number

grows each year. How did all of this plastic get there? What can we do to fix this?

Before we address those questions, consider food waste. When you eat at a restaurant, how much food do you leave on the plate? Do you find yourself throwing out leftovers from the fridge? About 15% of the solid waste in the United States is food waste. Food waste in landfills is the third highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the United States. Although these statistics can feel very jarring, there are things we can do. For instance, composting is one way to help reduce the amount of waste in landfills. While it still emits carbon dioxide, the amount of the greenhouse gas methane that it releases is far less than it would be in a landfill. A pile of decayed organic materials such as apple cores and twigs will become compost, a great fertilizer nicknamed "black gold" because it is rich in nutrients. Composting is one of nature's ways of recycling material and it can be done in your own backyard!

I had not been fully aware of the degradation of our planet and what we can do to fix it before I enrolled at U-M. My awareness and interest in the environment grew quickly a few weeks into my psychology class, PSYCH 120: The Psychology of Sustainability. I became more aware of my carbon footprint and initiatives such as composting and recycling. I started to think about where I was throwing my trash away, when I was keeping my lights on and how long my showers were.

Specifically, I was thinking about what kind of waste I was getting at the dining hall. I began to notice the small compost bin in the corner of the trash room; one that was no longer buried in all the takeout boxes. In my class, my teacher had us make a pledge at the beginning of the year to change one habit to make our lives more sustainable. I pledged to always bring my reusable bag to the dining hall and to compost all of my organic food waste. It was education that gave rise to my awareness of the environment.

For years, colleges have been trying to make their dining solutions more eco-friendly. University of Michigan Dining has made many initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint. U-M buys produce from over 30 different local farmers including the Campus Farm. U-M also tries to reduce its waste. All organic waste is sent to the Ann Arbor Compost Center. That waste is turned into compost, mulch and topsoil.

U-M also donates their extra food. Keith Soster, Director of Sustainability, Student & Community Engagement at U-M, explains that the Food Recovery Network has "gleaned more than 35,000 pounds of food from [U-M] dining." The

pre-packaged meals are collected and shared with the Ronald McDonald house, Michigan Medicine and Food Gatherers. While Michigan is not the only university that has transitioned to using compost and reducing plastic waste, Bridgette Pollaski, student manager at East Quad Dining Hall, explains that U-M is a pioneer in its reduction of waste on campus and around the country. All these sustainability efforts were on an upwards swing until suddenly, health concerns were prioritized over saving the environment.

The novel coronavirus pandemic brought forth many roadblocks in the sustainability efforts of U-M and the world in general. To reduce the spread of the coronavirus, single-use plastics such as facemasks, gloves, and anti-bacterial wipes have become necessities. Residential communities are seeing up to a 35% increase in waste after temporarily shutting down recycling because of the pandemic.

The long-term effects are troubling. Microplastics expert Dr. Chrisain Dunn calls for government aid because the damage of single-use plastics is "going to last forever." In order for restaurants to remain open during the pandemic, they offered carry-out options. Most take-out containers are made of styrofoam, which takes millions of years to decompose in a landfill. U-M Dining also had to close in-person dining and transition to take-out only options to maintain social distance. Since the novel coronavirus, U-M dining doubled its volume of waste, even though U-M is still able to donate their extra foods and compost. While almost all of U-M's containers and cutlery are compostable, the individually packaged drinks, food and condiments come in plastic water bottles, plastic wrap and small pre-packaged containers. But do students compost?

Compost bins are widespread around the U-M campus. They are often located by the dining halls or in the hall garbage rooms in the dorms. A study done in 2019 in Bursley Hall investigated the students' use of the compost bins. The research found that many students were not only composting, but also composting correctly. One of the students who conducted the study, Clare Hasse, stated that almost 96% of the items were composted correctly.

From my observations as a 2020 resident of Bursley Hall, I would say that composting is not as popular as it seemed to be in 2019. Many students transitioned to eating outside to be able to eat with more people than they would in a dorm room. However, there are not many compost bins located outside. Students composted when it took the same amount of effort to compost

as it did to throw waste into the trash. Since there are only compost bins in the dorm halls and the lobby, students are a lot less likely to go out of their way to compost their food waste.

In a survey of first-year students across campus that I conducted in November of 2020, 100% of the participants checked the box that they care for the environment. However, 28% of the participants never composted. Over 50% of the non-composters claimed that they did not know which items were compostable. Students care about the environment, yet they are not taking action to save it.

So how do we educate college students about sustainability? A study by a researcher at Kansas State University found that signage moved students to behave more effectively regarding the environment. U-M has placed signs strategically near dining areas and by most compost bins. The sign is titled Where to Throw and gives descriptions and pictures of what can be composted. However, these signs are easy to miss. They also have small print and a lot of words.

Fellow Bursley resident, Victoria Kovac, said in an interview that she believes that signage about composting "would probably not suffice" as the only solution to get students to compost. She believes that TikToks or other forms of short, interesting videos would engage students while also educating them about environmental issues. TikToks have proved to be an effective way for students to communicate and get their point across, as seen recently when the University of Michigan changed the quality of quarantine housing after viral TikToks were made by students. U-M also plans to increase communication with students about how to sort waste in the coming 2021 winter semester.

The world seemed to come to a halt in March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic struck the United States. We began to transition our lifestyles and habits to protect our own health and the health of our families at the cost of the environment. Sustainable habits do not need to stop during a pandemic. Education about sustainable behaviors such as how to compost will be a great start in saving our planet. Using compostable foodware will decrease the plastics in the ocean. Composting organic food waste will reduce carbon emissions in landfills and produce fertilizer for crops. These repeated actions become habits. The first step in shifting social norms is education. After this, we will hopefully have a planet full of knowledgeable and engaged environmental activists, so that we will be able to keep it.

Sudoku★★★★☆4puz.com

9	5		2			1		
4	7	1	6					
3			4					
2	9	7						6
5								1
8						4	2	5
				4				9
				6	2	7	3	
		2		3		1	4	

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Groundcover Vendor Code during COVID-19

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper. COVID-19 specific requirements agreed to by vendors following new training.

- I will wear a mask at all times while selling Groundcover News.
- I will use gloves, hand sanitizer or wash with soap to remove germs from my hands before selling and as needed.
- I will stay 6 feet away from others.

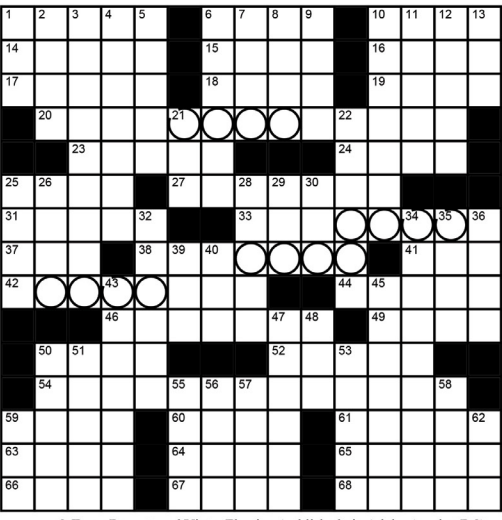
The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be distributed for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge

Now We're Talking

by Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming

- ACROSS**
1. Spicy dance or dip
 6. Pixar film that premiered in Mexico
 10. Areas in between
 14. President—___ Joe Biden
 15. ___-fisted
 16. Really unpleasant sort
 17. Nixon's vice-president
 18. Carter of "Ain't Misbehavin' "
 19. Sketch out
 20. Futuristic subtitle of 1968
 23. Pluck alternative
 24. Tiger's props
 25. Wrapper's supply
 27. The "E" in EMU
 31. The Detroit ___ House
 33. Enterprise-ing leisure locale
 37. "What's the ___?"
 38. Cocktail named for a Massachusetts peninsula
 41. Compete (for)
 42. Earthy pigment variant
 44. Privileged group
 46. Crescent-shaped aperture, in architecture
 49. Pastoral poem
 50. Brings to a conclusion
 52. Call in reply to "Who's calling?"
 54. Multilingual alternation between cultural identities and contexts __, or a literal description of this puzzle's circled letters
 59. Original "Hound Dog" singer Big Thornton
 60. Keep
 61. One way to order 67-Across
 63. Hee-haw
 64. Leer at
 65. Muralist's canvases
 66. Puts two and two together, perhaps
 67. Grizzly Peak selection
 68. With nuanced foxiness, say



- DOWN**
1. Current location?
 2. Terrarium nuisance
 3. Stat for a photographer
 4. Royalty symbol
 5. Engaging in hostilities (with)
 6. Film industry, collectively
 7. Lemon Flavor Creme ___
 8. Like left-over pizza for breakfast, typically
 9. YOLO part
 10. Unanticipated good fortune
 11. Come to terms
 12. Appeals, as to a higher power
 13. Use a Singer
 21. Go signal
 22. Walked with authority
 25. Sightseeing journey
 26. Altar site
 28. One of a pair on a bed
 29. List at the front of a bk.
 30. "Do Ya" rockers, briefly
 32. Charge
 34. "So it would seem"
 35. Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti
 36. On an even ___
 39. Iz*One girl group member Yu-jin ___
 40. Post opposite
 43. Nostalgic time, for some
 45. Like areas in between
 47. Nervous little laugh
 48. And so forth: Abbr.
 50. Jacque Lawson offering
 51. Itinerant
 53. Broadway's forte
 55. Neatnik's counterpart
 56. Income
 57. Elba, for one
 58. Nerve
 59. Deg. for a Michigan Ross student
 62. South Korean rapper, or an LSA subj.

DON'T FORGET!

FEBRUARY 7-14, 2021 IS
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Easy roasted vegetables

ELIZABETH BAUMAN
Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
3 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1 to 1 1/2 inch chunks
1/2 lb. (about 1-1/2 cups) large brussels sprouts, outer leaves removed and halved
1 lb. (about 4-1/2 cups) baby red potatoes, halved or quartered
1 large red onion, halved and cut into thick 1-inch pieces
1 lb. (about 1-1/4 cup) sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 1/2 inch thick slices
3/4 tablespoon dried oregano
3/4 tablespoon dried crushed rosemary
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon dried basil
Pepper and sea salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400° F.

Cut the vegetables to the size indicated above. Place all the prepared vegetables in one even layer on an 11x17 sheet pan. Do NOT overlap or you'll steam the veggies instead of roasting them)



Add the oregano, rosemary, thyme, and basil and salt and pepper to taste (I add about 1/2 teaspoon sea salt and about 3/4 teaspoon pepper). Drizzle the olive oil and toss well, evenly coating all the vegetables with the seasonings and oil before evenly layering them again.

Place on middle rack in oven and bake for 35 to 40 minutes, flipping the vegetables 20 minutes into baking time.

Remove from the oven and enjoy immediately. A healthy way to start the new year!

➔ REGULATORS from page 10

and other corporate crimes.

The immediate cause of the accident was laid on a series of failures in eight safety systems that were supposed to prevent this kind of accident. There were miscalculations, failures to observe procedures, misinterpretations, lack of attention and failure of the system. Importantly, this is consistent with BP's management style throughout the years.

Ineffective equipment and malfunction were said to be commonplace on the BP oil rigs. BP had been fined \$87 million in 2009 for safety violations. Over the three preceding years, the company racked up 760 violations; by contrast, its largest competitor, Exxon, had been cited for three violations. Obviously, one of these companies cared about safety and one didn't. Exxon had learned from its experience with the 1989 Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska.

BP had not learned from its prior environmental occurrence. While not on the same scale as the Deepwater Horizon spill, there had been a warning in the BP Texas City refinery which exploded in 2005 killing 15 people. An internal safety report written in 2005 showed that employees at that facility came to work every day with an "exceptional degree of fear of catastrophic incidents." That was a set-up for what happened in the Gulf five years later.

Pro-business adherents blame over-regulation in recent years for the lack of business growth in this country. They cite outrageous fines, too much paperwork, excessive inspections and rulings for curtailing business. Yet one is hard-pressed to find a business

that was destroyed because of too much regulation.

Steps to counteract ineffective regulation:

- The number one rectifying action would be penalizing the failure to pay. Delay of payment should be accompanied by fines that increase the penalties exponentially.

- Companies shouldn't be allowed to get away with repeated fines. There should be a vehicle to shut down such enterprises temporarily or even permanently when repeated offenses occur.

- The rules for enforcing fines should be simplified and speeded up. It is encouraging that the levels of fines have been increasing since the BP incident.

- Take away the discretionary judgment of penalties from the hands of the regulatory agencies. Impartial mediators, knowledgeable about industries, should be assigned this function.

- Regulatory agency employees should be barred from employment in the industry they were regulating for a period of years after leaving government service.

- Industries such as petroleum and mining should be required to carry billions of dollars of insurance for oil spills or mine cave-ins. If that were done, the insurance companies wouldn't allow the short cuts that paid regulators allowed.

Regulation is needed to keep businesses walking the "straight and narrow path." But this should be done without strangling corporate initiative. Businesses shouldn't have to fear another regulation or the appearance of an inspector from a regulatory agency.



St. Francis invites you
to join in Mass by LiveStream:

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English: stfrancisa2.com/mass

See our website for details on all worship services, events, and activities!

Due to Covid precautions, only registered parishioners of St. Francis are welcome to in-person services, and all must sign-up and register to be counted so that our numbers are within the acceptable range.



Pilgrimage to Nonviolence

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Save This Date!

Pilgrimage to Nonviolence with Yolanda Jack, of Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

During this promising powerful presentation we will witness the step by step journey and learn about Dr. Martin Luther King's Pilgrimage to Nonviolence. Our completely digital session will be on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Members of both Catholic parishes, St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor & Corpus Christi, Detroit, visited The Wright Museum™ for a spectacular pilgrimage tour one year ago. Now we look forward to continuing our Pilgrimage to Nonviolence on January 17, 2021. Visit this webpage again soon for more details. <https://www.stfrancisa2.com/racial-justice/>



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